Rome March 25

1868 P Mark 2/4/68

My dear Tom

I am glad to be able to tell you that I am really mending bravely & am able to paint write & even play on my piano but the weather is still too cold for me to get out much

I have a world of letters just now but all occupation is pleasant to me tho' I am as yet not equal to much

My two excellent Secretaries are a treasure to me & have aided me so in my illness that the seriousness of it has never been known & now that I almost well I trust it will be quite forgotten for there are a host of enemies who are ready to declare

me done up

I am fighting with the Inquisition which from day to day is taking away the many privileges I have so well gain'd from the Papal Ministers, but Mr Odo Russell says that he is sure I have an extraordinary influence over the said Ministers & that they have at times been induced to grant me more that was convenient or in order, so that now the Inquisition has stepped in to correct this mistake

Now I care little, as it will save much labour & as for my credit of that I have enough

'Tis a great matter my speaking the

Italian so fluently.

My studio makes a great show & I have many visitors to see it but as yet this I have sold only one picture

Soon I shall be able to send you a large Photo^h of my Magdalen picture which is really coming out well & I think you'll like it - Also I am to have one of "Ancient Mariners"

Ch Pearson told me about your daughter at Mrs Forsters & that she was so much liked & as Maria had told me also I was better able to understand & congratulate you & your excellent wife at all I hear

Kind best love to the dear young Lady herself - Indeed I am so glad that my poor name can be of service to

any one